

The Weekly Messenger – April 23, 2023

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-563-0979

Father Kakhaber Kurtanidze (Father Kai) 484-843-4209 [fr.kai@stjcaoc.org](mailto:fr.kai@stjcaoc.org)

Website: <https://stjcaoc.org/> Email address: [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 Gospel: John 20:19-31

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!  
KRISHTI U NGJALL! VERTET U NGJALL!**

**Upcoming Events:**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** St Thomas Sunday Memorials :Andrew Subashi 15 years, Andrew Jorjikia 1 year, Lluca Thodhori 3-year memorial

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** Myrrh-bearing Women Semi Annual Parish Meeting during coffee hour

**Commemorations for the Departed:** Archbishop Nikon, the victims in Ukraine, Andrew Jorjikia (1 yr), Lluca Thodhori (3 yrs.), Andrew Subashi (15 yrs.), Brent Ledford (7 yrs.), Deacon Stephen Stefani & those servicemen & women who have fallen asleep in the Lord in the service of their country.

**Commemorations for the Living:** Archbishop Mark, Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese, Archimandrite Nikodhim Preston, Father Joseph Ciarciaglino, the people in Ukraine, Julius, Stephanos Sarris, Virginia Daka, Marie Portway (Nancy Ghicondey’s Mother), Evangeline Prifti, and the men and women serving in the Armed Forces. *If you have a name to add to the Commemorations for the departed or the living, please email [info@stjcaoc.org](mailto:info@stjcaoc.org)*

**Coffee Hour Sponsor:** The 2023 Sign-up sheet is posted in the side vestibule or sign up on our website: [COFFEE HOUR](#) We need sponsors in MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Betty Subashi in Memory of Andy 15 years & Ana Melikishvili & Irakli Nadareishvili in Memory of Andrew Jorjikia

**April 30<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

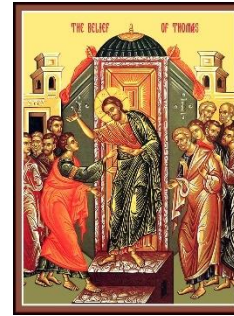
**May 14<sup>th</sup>** Bendo & Fiss Families

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** Diane Lescas in honor of Dino’s Nameday

**May 28<sup>th</sup> NO SPONSOR**

**Nick Naum Scholarship** has been posted on our website, <https://stjcaoc.org/> Please go to the website to complete the application and submit it via email. Do not mail your application or bring it to church. Members of the Nick Naum Scholarship committee are: Diane Coraluzzi, Carolyn Dardaris, Sandi Fiss, Stephanie Kosta, Nicole Ferrara, Reem Tarazi

**Monthly Giving for APRIL:** paper towels



**Saint Thomas Sunday: Antipascha** Every day during the week of Easter, called Bright Week by the Church, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The Easter baptismal procession is repeated daily. The royal gates of the sanctuary remain open. The joy of the Resurrection and the gift of the Kingdom of eternal life continue to abound. Then, at the end of the week, on Saturday evening, the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days” (Jn 20.26). The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. It is

therefore called the Antipascha, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Savior wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus, he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

**What a Wonderful Holy Week and Paschal** Special Thanks to Father Kai for bringing such enthusiasm to every service. Thank you to Davit, David, Alex, John and those who helped out in the Altar and to those who attended the services. It was a great week! Many thanks to those who sent Pascha donations to the church. Remember to review your bank statement to make sure your checks cleared. Contact Zach with any questions [treasurer@stjcaoc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org)

**2023 Stewardship/Pledges - Please Pledge Today!** We have received 42 pledges totaling \$32,530.00. Our goal is \$65,00.00. If you have any questions contact our Treasurer, Zach Smith [treasurer@stjcaoc.org](mailto:treasurer@stjcaoc.org) Thank you to those who have made their 2023 Pledge!